Introduction (Kristen Gunthardt)

- The minutes from all previous conference calls are available over the web: http://www.epa.gov/storet/confcalls.html
- The next scheduled call will be mid-April, 2006. The exact date will be emailed via the listserver later this month.
- Please email storet@epa.gov and let EPA know you have attended the call so that meeting rosters may be kept.
- If you have a special topic you'd like to lead for an upcoming call, please email Gunthardt.Kristen@epamail.epa.gov
- EPA would like to hear comments you have on the quality of these conference calls. Please send them to storet@epa.gov
- Please subscribe to the STORET automated listserver for announcements regarding conference calls: http://www.epa.gov/storet/listserv.html

Office of Water, Water Quality Exchange (OWWQX) Pilot Project

- The OWWQX Pilot was a joint project between the Office of Environmental Information (OEI) and the Office of Water (OW). OWWQX was initiated in April 2005 and completed in January 2006. The goal of the pilot was to provide a method for all data providers, regardless of the data system they use (e.g. STORET or non-STORET), to submit data to EPA and into the STORET data warehouse.
- There were four pilot participants; OR, MI, TX, and the Wind River Environmental Quality Commission who submitted physical/chemical data and feedback to test the functionality, data flow and format of the exchange system. EPA is currently reviewing the outcomes of the pilot to further develop the WQX production system.
- Over the span of the pilot, Oregon was able to successfully submit and exchange data in an automated fashion using Exchange Network standards. The Wind River Tribe successfully loaded data manually by utilizing the Web-based solution.
- The scope of the data includes physical, chemical, and fish tissue data. A biological data pilot is anticipated to begin late 2006.
- Please visit the STORET website under "the Future of STORET" link, http://epa.gov/storet/future_storet.html, to read more about the WQX project.
- The following documents detailing the evolution of STORET and the pilot are available at http://epa.gov/storet/future_downloads.html:
 - o Chemical/Physical Results schema;
 - OWWQX back-end database Physical Data Model;
 - OWWQX Pilot Participant Handbook;
 - Flow Configuration Document;
 - OWWQX data dictionary;
 - OWWQX lookup tables for data elements that require the use of a valid values list;
 - o Additional schema documentation.

The Future of STORET (led by Peter Gravat)

- This conference call is dedicated to discussing the direction STORET will be taking over the next two to four years. WQX is designed to address the aging software and technologies associated with STORET and create additional data flow flexibility for data providers (with and without Oracle) using the Agency's Enterprise Architecture.

- STORET is currently the only data warehouse which houses many agency and Clean Water Act program data. The Central Data Warehouse will persist and essentially maintain the same form and function; however, support for the current data exchange system will expire in 2009. Webservices are currently being created to facilitate data exchange to the WQX system.
- The current version of STORET requires users to load data into a local version of STORET. WQX will allow data providers to use their own data systems and/or a web-based solution for smaller data exchanges. Additionally, WQX is incrementally updated, and does not require "refreshing". This will make for quicker updates and a more efficient data updating process.
- EPA is currently working on setting up a web-based tool to help data providers map their data to WQX.
- EPA would like to meet with all data providers over the next few months to talk about the transition and help work through the data flow configuration process. From mid-April through mid-July, there will be five meetings held across the country to open up communication between the STORET team and states. The STORET team would like to answer questions, get feedback from states and tribes, and discuss various elements of the WQX program (e.g., WQX schema, data elements, exchange nodes, etc.). EPA would like to provide assistance to assure that all data providers can attend a WQX transition meeting.
- WQX is projected to be available for physical/chemical and fish tissue data exchange beginning in January 2007. The current version of STORET will be available for data flow until 2009. Both systems will run concurrently between 2007 and 2009.
- Please email the STORET team at <u>STORET@epa.gov</u> for any questions, comments or issues you would like to discuss. Additionally, please contact us with any issues you would like addressed at any the five WQX transition meetings so that we may tailor the agenda and transition solutions to the concerns of the data providers.

Updates on SIM 2.0.2 Release

- STORET Import Module version 2.0.2 is currently in beta-testing and will be released later this year. SIM 2.0.2 will be available for STORET users though the transition to WQX in 2009.

National Monitoring Conference

The National Monitoring Conference is being held May 7-11, 2006 in San Jose, CA. Please see the website http://www.tetratech-ffx.com/nwqmc06/ for more details.

Open Q/A and Comment Period

- 1. What are the proposed WQX transition meeting locations? (AK)
- Denver, Chicago, Atlanta, and Philadelphia are the only cities proposed thus far. One additional, unknown location will be chosen. When the STORET team has any information on dates and/or locations, we will notify STORET users and/or regional coordinators as soon as possible so that you may arrange for travel.
- 2. Our state has limited travel opportunities. Can EPA provide webconferencing or travel assistance? (TX)
- EPA feels these meetings are essential to facilitating the transition to WQX and is looking at providing travel support to states and tribes.

- 3. Will the WQX transition meetings be geared predominantly towards the Water Quality Management audiences or the data management and technical audiences? (R2)
- EPA is dedicated to finding ways to target both audiences, however these meetings will probably need to focus on information technology (IT) and data management to ensure that the transition proceeds in a way that is most beneficial to the largest STORET audience.
- 4. I would like to attend a WQX transition meeting where some of the pilot participants are present and/or STORET is heavily used by some of the meeting participants to get the most out of the meeting. Is it possible to attend a WQX transition meeting outside of our region? (MN)
- It is possible, however we would like to balance the size of the meetings so that diversity is achieved and individual concerns may be addressed.
- 5. Will data providers need to obtain new equipment to utilize the WQX program? (AR)
- One of the benefits of the WQX system is that any data system may be used as long as a network node has been set up. Alternatively, smaller data providers may choose to use a web tool to exchange data.
- 6. Can we use the current STORET data system to transfer data to WQX?
 (OH)
- Yes, STORET software will still be available for use; however data will need to be mapped to the WQX schema. The STORET team will work with you to assist you in the transition.
- 7. What are the implications regarding 106 grant funds? (OH)
- No changes are anticipated to 106 grant funds. The method in which data is submitted will change, however the requirement to submit data and the data warehouse will remain more or less the same.
- 8. Is it possible to use a simplified STORET data structure to submit data? (AK)
- Absolutely. STORET was designed to accommodate many various data requirements and is often more complex than any one data provider may need. A streamline data management solution is a viable option.
- 9. Once the WQX program begins, can data still be transmitted to the STORET data warehouse? (OH)
- Yes, the current STORET data process will be available through the transition process until 2009.
- 10. Is it possible to include IT personnel in the transition process as they will primarily handling the network nodes? (TN)
- Yes. One of the goals of WQX is to involve more state and tribe people in the data flow process, since no specific data system will be required to transfer data.

Participants on call (based on who emailed storet@epa.gov)

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